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THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

GENERAL INDEX

TO THE

COLONIAL RECORDS,

IN 16 VOLUMES,

AND TO THE

PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES,

IN 12 VOLUMES,

PREPARED AND ARRANGED BY

SAMUEL HAZARD,

UNDER AN ACT OF THE

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PREFACE.

FREQUENT inquiries having been made of the Editor, during the preparation and printing of this work, as to the difference between the Colonial Records and Pennsylvania Archives, to which the present volume is a general index, it may be useful to state the following facts:

It is believed that the early Records or Minutes of the Provincial Councils, &c., were kept on loose sheets of paper, and not, at the time, recorded in books, as appears by frequent long intervals of dates, and blanks left for documents. Many of these loose sheets are in the handwriting of James Logan, the then Secretary, and after being for many years preserved in his family, were deposited among the archives of several societies; some having been recorded in the volumes in the State department, and some not being yet in print. At a subsequent period, it is believed, an attempt was made to collect and record in volumes as many of these loose sheets as could be obtained, but without entire success, though the collection from 1682 to 1790, now consists of 32 MS. volumes. As they were the only records in existence, and liable at any moment to be destroyed, the Philosophical and Historical Societies in 1836, directed the attention of the Legislature to the subject of their preservation by printing these volumes; which, in 1837, resulted in an Act authorizing the Secretary of the Commonwealth to cause a portion of them to

be printed. And again in 1838, another portion, so that in 1840, three volumes, bringing down the date to 1735, had been printed. Here the matter rested for several years, owing, it is understood, to financial difficulties. In 1851, the subject was again revived, and the Secretary was authorized to continue the printing of the minutes, to the adoption of the State Constitution in 1789–90. This was accordingly done, the proofs being revised by clerks in the Secretary's office, till the whole were printed in sixteen volumes, including the first three volumes, which, having become scarce, were reprinted uniformly with the rest. These are the *Colonial Records.*

In 1851, the Governor in his annual message stated that his "attention had been called to the large body of original papers in the State Department connected with the Colonial and Revolutionary History of the State," and recommended the employment of a suitable person to select and arrange them for publication. A committee of each body was appointed to consider the suggestion of the Governor, both of which made favorable reports, and the Assembly authorized the Governor to make such an appointment. The editor was honored with this selection; and after carefully examining all the papers of early date in pigeon-holes and bundles in the office, made his report as published, and presented by the Governor with his message to the Assembly, who by Act of March, 1852, appointed the person who had made the selection, to superintend the printing; but it was not till the 27th August, 1852, owing to various delays in making the contracts, that the publication was commenced. This collection containing about 11,000 distinct papers, from originals in the Secretary's office, and now forming twelve volumes, constitutes the *Pennsylvania Archives.*

As the two works make twenty-eight volumes, and the Records being without any other index than a meagre table of contents, from which but few facts could be ascertained,

and as there are twelve volumes of the Archives, which, though each volume contains a full index, yet requiring an examination of each, it was deemed advisable, for greater ease of reference, that a general index, embraced in one volume, should be prepared. The Assembly, perceiving this necessity, authorized the editor by Act to prepare it, and the present volume is the result of his labors.

So far as the Records are concerned, it is an entirely original index, made from the volumes themselves, with which the editor had before no more acquaintance than other persons. As he prepared those for the Archives, the subjects were more familiar to him, yet the combination of the twelve indices into one, became equally necessary and not less laborious.

It will be seen that the index is made very full and in detail, and it is believed that no important fact has escaped the notice of the editor. That so large a work, abounding with references to volumes and pages, should be entirely free from errors, cannot reasonably be expected or even hoped for; but, it is believed, from frequent references made, while in progress, that they will be found very few and unimportant. If any are met with, the means of correcting many may be found in the fact, that all important subjects are referred to under several heads, as well as the one adopted by the editor. For the Archives, in such cases, the several volumes may prove also available.

Some difficulty has been experienced in connecting events and names, from the circumstance that sometimes only the name, without the office; and at others the title without the Christian name, occur, not even allowing for changes by promotions; some confusion may, therefore, occur which could not well be avoided.

It is, however, believed that with all its imperfections the index will promote a more intimate acquaintance with the history of our State, as detailed in the Records and Archives, than could possibly be attained without it, and make every

one who chooses to consult and trace it, better acquainted with the occurrences of his own neighborhood at least. Indeed, the editor is satisfied that no better and fuller history of the State can be found, than in the sources referred to in this volume.

The volume has been so printed that it may be kept together or separated to suit the wishes of persons possessing either the Records or Archives; or both; and to one who has neither, it will possess an interest, as referring to subjects on which he may desire information; and obtain it from some library or neighbor, who has either one or both works.

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OF

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PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES.

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